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TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

County of Cumberland.

GENTLEMEN—

The honorable compromise, in virtue of which Mr. Fulton and myself were returned as your Representatives in August last, having been violated by some of the men who made it, Petitions were presented to the House of Assembly, and a Committee have set the Election aside.

Another appeal must now be made to the County, and I make it without hesitation or fear. I do not believe that the Electors of the County of Cumberland will sanction the treachery by which the enemies of the Government and of the *Railroad*, seek to embarrass the one and destroy the other. Mr. Fulton has honorably redeemed the pledges which he made upon the Hustings. My interest will therefore be identified with his. We offer ourselves for your suffrages together, and every friend of mine will, I trust, also support Mr. Fulton.

During the extra Session, which was held in November, an overwhelming majority of both Branches sanctioned the Railway Policy of the Government. Bills were passed which fulfilled every pledge made to you and to the neighbouring Provinces.

Some difficulties subsequently arose out of the refusal of Earl Grey to provide funds for the Line to Portland, and from the desire expressed by the Governments of the other Colonies to carry the Line to Canada up the Valley of the St. John. Delegates having visited Halifax, these difficulties were considered and removed. The two lines were combined, and a new arrangement entered into. By this, Canada is to make one third of the whole line; New Brunswick five-twelfths, and Nova Scotia one quarter or three-twelfths; the line through Cumberland being thus secured, and Nova Scotia being relieved of a heavy amount of responsibility.

By the arrangement entered into at Toronto, Nova Scotia was to make 212 miles, which at £5000 sterling, per mile, would have cost £1,000,000. When the work was paid for, Nova Scotia was to own only 130 miles, which lay within her territory.

By the new arrangement Nova Scotia will have to make but 160 miles, and will own all she makes, forever. The cost will be only £800,000, and we shall thus save, by this bargain, £260,000 Stg., or £312,000 Currency.

By this arrangement, as by the other, the line through Cumberland, you will see, has been secured, and I trust that you will be satisfied that your Representatives have, under every combination of circumstances, done their duty faithfully, and performed for you a substantial service.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia has ratified this new arrangement by a decisive majority of 36 to 14.

The enemies of the Railroad now hope to embarrass the Government and defeat the measure by unseating Mr. Fulton and myself. If they could do this while negotiations are still pending between the three Provinces and the British Government, they might yet peril the measure. Before this reaches you they will be scouring the County and endeavouring to mislead you, as they did in August last. Stand firm, Electors of Cumberland. You have an important duty to discharge to the County—to your Country, and to all British America. Every effort will be made to deceive and to seduce you. Electors of Cumberland stand firm. Vindicate at the Polls, as you did in August at Public Meetings, the enlightened opinions which you entertain.

Although I have been much occupied by Provincial questions, I have not been unmindful of your local interests. Already measures are in progress to re-build the Bridge at Advocate Harbour, to throw a Bridge across the River Philip, which will bind together the ~~thriving settlements~~ on the North Shore, to construct a Pier at Parrsborough and establish a Light House at the River's mouth.

My opponents, if they could, would gladly stop the progress of Provincial and local improvements. Without your aid they are powerless. Electors of Cumberland stand firm! By your suffrages I calculate securely—but, do not forget that as Mr. Fulton has redeemed every pledge that he gave you, and has given to me his manly and honest co-operation, every vote to which I am entitled should be given with equal cheerfulness to him.

Hoping soon to see and confer with you face to face,
I have the honor to remain

Very sincerely yours,

JOSEPH HOWE.

February 24, 1852.